LEVY SHIFTS

A levy shift is a means of transferring revenue capacity from the county road levy to the current expense levy **without** diversion.

RCW 84.52.043 permits the current expense levy to be increased from $1.80 per $1000 of assessed valuation to a maximum of $2.475 per $1000 of assessed valuation, **provided:**

- The combination of the current expense and road levies does not exceed $4.05, and
- No other taxing district has its levy reduced due to this action

Since the allowable sum of these two senior levies remains at $4.05 per $1000 of assessed valuation, a levy shift may result in a decrease in the road levy rate.

A levy shift may be considered by some counties because it increases current expense revenue, and it may increase overall county revenue as well. This can occur because the road levy is assessed only in the unincorporated area of the county, while the current expense levy is assessed countywide, including incorporated cities and towns. Though possible, it is **uncommon** for the road department to be reimbursed for its shifted revenue losses, and for current expense to gain solely from the revenues generated from the increased extent of the assessment base. By doing so, it is possible in some counties for the current expense fund to gain an advantage without impacting the road department.

A levy shift differs from diversion in that a shift may be accomplished for any general government purpose of the county and carries no restriction which might impact RAP eligibility.

Counties who wish to consider a levy shift should investigate existing capacity within both the road and current expense levies as well as determine if there is a possibility of impacting any junior taxing district within the county.